



# New Garden Fund Grants

Announcing grants available for groups in Madison that want to start new community gardens.

The New Garden Fund Committee is pleased to announce an eighth year of grants to encourage creation of new community gardens and expansion of existing community gardens in Madison. Grants will be given out in spring 2012.

**Who should apply?** Groups eligible to apply include:

- existing gardens hoping to expand (by adding new plots for new gardeners),
- neighborhoods lacking community garden space that want to create new gardens,
- existing gardens where leases are being lost due to development, etc. that need to be relocated.

**How are projects selected?** Applications will be due on Friday, January 13, 2012. Community gardeners representing neighborhoods throughout Madison are serving as the selection panel for the New Garden Fund grants. One or more groups will be chosen to receive grants by the selection panel, based on criteria chosen by the panel including scarcity of plots in the neighborhood, and increasing access to low income families, minorities and differently-able people.

**How much are the grants?** Groups from anywhere in Madison can apply for support for their new garden project. Requests from anywhere in the city can be up to \$2000. The grants can help pay for water systems, fences, raised beds, etc. Eligible groups are also encouraged to apply for other City funding for their garden through the Neighborhood Enhancement Grant Program, and/or the People for Parks Grant Program (<http://www.cityofmadison.com/neighborhoods/>). In addition, a few gardens could receive continuing support from CAC and the City, including gardener education workshops, insurance coverage, tilling, compost and water services.

**Please contact Chris Brockel, Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin, Inc - Food & Gardens, at 246-4730, Ext. 208, for a grant application and a resource packet on how to start your own community garden in Madison.**

Photo by Mark Dohm, 2004 at Troy Community Garden.

# Seed Money Available for New Community Gardens

Community Action Coalition for South  
Central Wisconsin  
Food and Gardens Division

*Note: This article announcing the New Garden Fund was printed in neighborhood newsletters all around Madison this fall, to welcome all residents to consider launching a garden. Does your garden need to expand, or would you like to start a new community garden? Please get in touch to apply for this seed money for the upcoming growing season.*

From a potted tomato plant on a front porch to the Obamas' White House lawn garden, more and more Americans are realizing the importance of growing our own food. Not only does gardening provide nutritious foods for our bodies, but it also saves money in household budgets that may be stretched a bit thin these days. In community gardens, growing food in a shared space also fosters relationships and connections in a place where people of all backgrounds, heritages, ages and levels of ability can come together with mutual respect and achieve their own personal gardening goals.

The community gardening spirit is thriving in the Madison area, with 55 community gardens serving over 2400 households. However, many Madison residents live in areas where there are still limited, if any, opportunities to garden and many existing gardens have waiting lists of interested gardeners. For these reasons, the New Garden Fund was created in 2005 by Community Action Coalition for South Central Wisconsin, Inc. (CAC) with support from the Madison Community Development Block Grant and other city agencies. The New Garden Fund, which is

housed at the Madison Community Foundation, provides financial assistance to new and expanding gardens, increasing access to more gardens throughout the city. Existing community gardens and individuals donate to this fund, which can provide grants of up to \$2000 per garden.

A grant from the New Garden Fund can help pay for materials and services such as soil testing, land clearing, water systems, fencing, or tools. The application process for a grant is simple and application materials can be found on the CAC community gardens website, [http://www.cacsw.org/garden\\_grants.php](http://www.cacsw.org/garden_grants.php). Applications are due in mid January. A panel of community gardeners will review the New Garden Fund grant applications and select recipients.

To further support the success of community gardens in the Madison area, CAC has many resources available on the CAC community gardens website ([http://cacsw.org/garden\\_handbook.php](http://cacsw.org/garden_handbook.php)), including an organizer's handbook for starting new community gardens. In addition, CAC staff members are available to meet with neighborhood groups interested in starting a new community garden to explain the process and provide resources. For more information, contact Chris Brockel at 246-4730 ext. 206. If you can support this project financially, we welcome your donation to the New Garden Fund.

Community gardens foster and grow strong neighborhoods, provide opportunities for education and exercise, and nurture healthy lifestyles. For the vegetable less traveled, we invite you to contact CAC to learn how to start a garden in your own community.